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Second Committee

Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 9 October 2018, at 3 p.m.

Chair:	Mr. Skinner-Klée Arenales	(Guatemala)
later:	Mr. Remaoun (Vice-Chair)	(Algeria)
later:	Mr. Skinner-Klée Arenales (Chair)	(Guatemala)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Amde** (Ethiopia) said that three years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, poverty, hunger, inequality, armed conflict, climate change and humanitarian disasters persisted. He urged Member States to renew their collective commitment to achieving people-centred, planet-friendly, inclusive and sustainable growth for all. Multi-stakeholder collaboration was not an option, but a necessity. Multilateralism was what had produced the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Further bold and coordinated action was needed to advance the path of development, fight the adverse impacts of climate change, and mobilize adequate resources. Financial and technological support for developing countries was the litmus test for commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals; the developed countries should honour their commitment to provide it.

2. While Ethiopia had registered high economic growth since 2015, poverty, unemployment, poor governance, sluggish exports and debt remained obstacles to its achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. His Government was undertaking a number of economic reforms that it hoped would lead to poverty reduction, job creation and the transfer of capital and technology. Over 60 per cent of the national budget had been allocated to pro-poor sectors. Least developed countries such as his needed an international environment that enabled national efforts to reduce poverty through economic reform and diversification; structural transformation alone would not suffice. He urged development partners to demonstrate global solidarity by fulfilling their commitments to the most vulnerable countries.

3. **Mr. Peketi** (Togo) said that persistent poverty and youth unemployment were fuelling migration. Climate change was creating more and more catastrophic events and should be addressed by coordinated action within the framework of the Paris Agreement. In that connection, his delegation expressed its sympathy to Indonesia, which had been struck by a devastating earthquake and tsunami two weeks earlier, and to Haiti, which had just suffered another earthquake. Hunger was virtually endemic across Africa, but particularly in South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen, while drought was a problem in many developing countries. The Committee needed to fulfil its mandate by addressing the issues of food security, the environment and poverty, including extreme poverty. He hoped its deliberations would be open, inclusive and constructive and lead to strengthened international cooperation, the promotion of diversified partnerships, and accelerated achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Financing for development was crucial; he urged all stakeholders to fulfil their commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

4. His delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. Togo had presented voluntary national reviews in the high-level political forum on sustainable development three years in a row, most recently in July 2018. He urged the Committee to pay special attention to the most vulnerable countries, particularly in Africa, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries in post-conflict situations and middle-income countries. Every country had the right to enjoy sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; dialogue and consensus should prevail in the Committee's deliberations on how to change the world for the better.

5. **Mr. Kim** Song (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the Sustainable Development Goals could only be achieved by consolidated international action. Unfortunately, implementation was being impeded by unilateral approaches. In particular, international peace and security, which were crucial to implementing the Goals, were being undermined by the high-handedness of certain States. Even so, his country had led the way in dramatically reducing tensions in the Korean peninsula, one of the world's hot spots, thereby promoting a regional environment conducive to development and prosperity. His people were concentrating their collective efforts on building a self-reliant and civilized society within a socialist economic construction that was fully in line with the 2030 Agenda.

6. Unfortunately, his country's development efforts were facing unfair obstacles in the form of United Nations Security Council sanctions that blocked access to humanitarian needs, including medicines, medical equipment and even sports equipment. He invited Member States to join with his country in creating a new international economic order that was just, equal and impartial and would pave the way for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. **Mr. Braquetti** (Monaco) said that the international economic and industrial systems were having alarming effects on the environment. Resources were becoming scarcer, and the full effect of pollution on human health was as yet unknown. It was no longer possible to prevent climate change, only to slow it. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's recent announcement of a climate summit to be convened in September 2019.

8. Monaco had made numerous strides towards a green economy, with advances in urban planning, transportation, resource conservation, water management and green spaces. The national energy sector looked forward to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Monaco Heliport had just been certified as the world's first carbon-accredited heliport by Airports Council International. His country had also just unveiled the world's first nationwide 5G mobile network and was promoting connectivity under its "smart nation" programme.

9. Monaco honoured its commitments regarding the provision of official development assistance (ODA) and had made a voluntary contribution to the Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda had put forth a sweeping vision of development, including its environmental component, which should be incorporated into public policy; the private sector, in all its diversity, should be made a fully-fledged actor in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, he welcomed the second One Planet Summit that had just been held on the on the margins of the high-level meetings of the current General Assembly session.

10. **Mr. Rodrigo** (Sri Lanka) said that the incorporation of the 2030 Agenda into the national development plan was beginning to bear fruit. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018* had recorded declines in extreme poverty and unemployment, and gains in the areas of health, environmental protection and productivity. However, hunger was on the rise, gender inequality persisted, and many people still lacked access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Climate change and conflict continued to pose threats.

11. His Government had created a separate Ministry for Sustainable Development and a parliamentary committee on the Sustainable Development Goals. Both its Vision 2025 strategy and its Public Investment Programme 2017–2020 were aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Sri Lanka had just presented its voluntary national review at the most recent session of the high-level political forum. Its Ministry of Education had collaborated with United Nations agencies in a national campaign to support student-led initiatives for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. While Sri Lanka was committed to the Goals and had made considerable progress, it continued to face challenges posed by dependence on fossil fuels, degradation of forest and land resources, and the vulnerability of population centres to disasters.

12. **Ms. Nason** (Ireland) said that Second Committee deliberations were an annual test of the capacity of Member States to walk in each other's shoes. She hoped that discussions in the current session would produce genuinely multilateral and results-based resolutions that focused on the core goals of eradicating poverty and hunger and achieving sustainable and inclusive growth. With the 2030 deadline for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals fast approaching, the international community needed to act with urgency to achieve a world free of poverty and deprivation that respected the limits of nature.

13. Along with Kenya, Ireland had co-facilitated the negotiations leading to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. Her delegation supported the Secretary-General's efforts to address development financing issues. Her country remained committed to the target of earmarking 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance and had just pledged more than a million dollars in support of the reform of the United Nations development system. She wished to draw particular attention to the problems faced by small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and least developed countries.

14. As a nation of migrants, Ireland viewed migration as a natural feature of human societies, even if others did not. Her delegation was proud to have co-facilitated the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants along with the delegation of Jordan. Her country would participate actively in the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration scheduled to take place in Marrakesh in December 2018. As Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, her country was also working to advance gender equality, which was not a gift to be granted but a fundamental driver for improving the lives of all. Her delegation was also honoured to have been asked to co-facilitate the consultative process for the political declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit. She urged Member States to renew their efforts towards realizing Mr. Mandela's vision of a culture of peace, tolerance and respect for human dignity.

15. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) said that as the reform of the United Nations development system progressed, it would be important to correct the imbalance between core and non-core resources. He stressed that ODA should be the main catalyst for the 2030 Agenda, in combination with public-private partnerships and innovative financing. That would ensure development financing that was both predictable and flexible. Recently published figures on global warming and malnutrition had highlighted the threats posed by climate change and conflict, particularly in Africa, and the need to build up the resilience of the most vulnerable countries. As the Vice-Chair of the Economic and Social Council charged with chairing the humanitarian affairs segment, Morocco was committed to strengthening synergies between the development and humanitarian segments.

16. His country was about to hold its second national consultation on the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to begin preparing another voluntary national review for presentation in the high-level political forum. According to the 2018 *Sustainable Development Goals Index and Dashboards Report*, published by the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa, Morocco led the African continent with a 66.1 per cent achievement rate for the Sustainable Development Goals. It had adopted a people-centred approach to development that respected the natural environment and cultural heritage. During the current session, his delegation would once again be sponsoring the biennial draft resolution on the promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection.

17. Morocco looked forward to hosting the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Marrakesh in December 2018. The Conference would offer an opportunity to improve migration governance, address the challenges associated with the new migration patterns, and harness the contributions of migrants to development. He also expressed support for the Secretary-General's appointment of a High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation. The first African consultations in that process would be held in Morocco.

18. His country had recognized early on that climate change was a "threat multiplier", and had put in place a number of national strategies to address it. The first ever Africa Action Summit on climate change and development had taken place in Marrakesh in 2016, on the margins of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and had given rise to a number of initiatives, most notably the Congo Basin Climate Commission and the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin. The rational management of water resources was a high priority for Morocco, which was investing in large-scale irrigation projects and had passed legislation providing for decentralized and participatory water resources management. He expressed support for the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, and reiterated his country's commitment to South-South cooperation as a vehicle for the emergence of a new Africa, confident in its potential and open to the future. Over the past 15 years, Morocco had signed some 1,000 cooperation agreements with 28 African countries on issues ranging from education to health, infrastructure and agriculture.

19. **Mr. Rakhmetov** (Kazakhstan) said that the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement provided clear guidelines and innovative ideas for making full use of best practices at the national, regional and global levels. It was now urgent to fully unlock the Committee's potential to be pragmatic and results-oriented.

20. Kazakhstan believed that the Paris Agreement was the cornerstone of global efforts to overcome climate challenges and fulfil the 2030 Agenda. It looked forward to the climate change summit to be convened in 2019. The collective commitment to fully implementing that agreement in a timely manner should be reaffirmed. As the world's largest landlocked developing country, Kazakhstan had always been at the forefront of addressing the geographical disadvantages faced by those countries.

21. It was clear that all 17 Sustainable Development Goals had a direct bearing on the future of landlocked developing countries and underpinned trade-related and infrastructure capacity-building, as well as the promotion of regional economic cooperation and connectivity. The ambitious current phase of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 dovetailed with the 2030 Agenda. The 2019 midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action would be instrumental to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by landlocked developing countries.

22. Given the ongoing repositioning of the United Nations development system, regional initiatives such as the new generation of United Nations country teams headed by independent resident coordinators were becoming increasingly important. A new paradigm was needed to address the transnational challenges brought about by recent globalization trends. Meeting those

challenges, which were especially common in conflict-prone regions, would necessitate a transition from a country-specific to a regional strategy. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals required a holistic approach that incorporated the interests of all stakeholders. Kazakhstan firmly believed that the Economic and Social Council should retain its role as the central forum for discussion and coordination towards that end. Kazakhstan was a candidate for membership in the Council for the period 2022–2024.

23. As the past three years had shown that greater financial efforts were needed to assist low-income countries in meeting key targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, his delegation remained a strong advocate of the idea that Member States should contribute 1 per cent of their national military budget towards attaining the Goals.

24. Kazakhstan shared the sense of urgency expressed during the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, a key platform for follow-up and review, and would be presenting its voluntary national review during the 2019 high-level political forum. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals would ensure a high quality of life for the people of Kazakhstan and would also be fully in line with its Strategy 2050 and other national development programmes. While there could be no one-size-fits-all approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, a common vision, mutual support, regular interaction and coordinated multilateral efforts would provide a powerful impetus towards a peaceful, equitable and sustainable global society.

25. **Ms. Popescu** (Romania) said that major international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement could only be realized through a strong and confident multilateral system that empowered Member States to reach their targets. Romania welcomed and supported the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on repositioning the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, but remained concerned about insufficient development financing. Owing to the global economic slowdown, traditional funding remained lower than in previous years, while natural hazards had a heavy impact on small, vulnerable and highly-indebted economies. Romania welcomed and supported the Secretary-General's Strategy for financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2018–2021); close cooperation among all developed and developing States, Governments and multi-stakeholders would be crucial to implementing the Agenda.

26. The primary focus in that process must be on poverty reduction and mobilizing resources to achieve food security and all the Sustainable Development Goals while leaving no one behind. Her Government had incorporated the core principles of the 2030 Agenda into its national development paradigm with a view to ensuring good governance and respect for the rule of law, human rights and gender mainstreaming. The presentation of its voluntary national review during the July 2018 high-level political forum had been a very useful exercise. Romania was committed to implementing the Paris Agreement, curbing climate change, combating pollution and protecting the environment against further degradation.

27. Continuous adaptation of policies and resources and attention to all individuals and communities, starting with the most vulnerable, were needed to bring about a sustainable and resilient society. In 2017, Romania had recorded an accelerated 6.9 per cent rate of economic growth driven by wage increases that had improved the population's purchasing power and by gross investments from the private sector. Potential growth in gross domestic product (GDP) had totalled around 5 per cent that year, largely driven by total factor productivity. As a result of infrastructure investment and favourable developments in machinery, transport investment and the labour force, a significant increase in capital stock was expected to generate an increase in real GDP growth in 2018.

28. Her Government also attached importance to health care and improving access to it in rural areas. It had implemented national health care policies and programmes targeting vulnerable groups and strengthened the health care system with a view to achieving universal coverage.

29. Education, one of the main cross-cutting areas of sustainable development, should not be centred exclusively on the environmental dimension. It should be informed by cooperation and partnership among a number of decision-makers: central and local authorities; education and research units; the health care system; the private sector, including the manufacturing, transport, agriculture and commerce sectors; labour unions; mass media; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); local communities; citizens; and international organizations.

30. Romania contributed to the fight against extreme poverty and supported the development of sustainable democratic institutions in developing countries, as well as building South-South and triangular cooperation

partnerships. It had been active bilaterally in the areas of international food safety and food processing standards, agricultural techniques, soil erosion techniques and desertification.

31. **Ms. Boham** (Ghana) said that her Government hoped that the Committee's work would galvanize support and maintain the momentum for national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which most developing countries were far from meeting. Despite the relative progress achieved, many countries were still affected by challenges such as unfair trade practices and the vagaries of the international economic system; low incomes and unemployment; and a lack of access to quality education, efficient energy sources, good health facilities and financing, while the effects of climate change continued to widen inequalities.

32. Her Government held the view that there were sufficient resources on the planet for all countries to achieve prosperity, and called for a reaffirmation of a rules-based multilateral trading system that facilitated trade and provided opportunities for developing countries to broaden their export base and stimulate economic growth. It was also necessary to promote an enabling environment that fostered job creation – especially for youth – bearing in mind the intrinsic link between youth and development. Given the size of their youth populations, African countries needed to include that segment in national development discussions if they intended to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Ghana had integrated all 17 Sustainable Development Goals into its national vision and budget and would be presenting its voluntary national review during the July 2019 high-level political forum.

33. In that regard, her delegation wished to emphasize the importance of sustainable industrial development, in line with industrial policies and institutional frameworks that were supported by investment in industrial infrastructure, clean technology, climate change adaptation, innovation, environmental technologies and skills development.

34. Ghana welcomed the implementation plan for the reinvigorated resident coordinator system. The system must remain focused on sustainable development while aiming to eradicate poverty, consistent with the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda and in line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). She underscored the need for the adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of the resident coordinator system. Member States must voluntarily contribute to the Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda to deliver a coherent, effective and accountable response that corresponded to national needs and priorities.

35. South-South cooperation was becoming increasingly critical to bolstering the productive capacities of developing countries and continued to have a positive impact on trade and financial flows, technological capabilities and economic growth. Ghana called on the Organization to facilitate such cooperation.

36. **Ms. Simonyan** (Armenia) said that inclusive, participatory policies for sustainable development would sustain peaceful societies where diversity was a source of strength. The efficiency of international development cooperation rested on the long-term sustainability of inclusive development. Mere generation of wealth without its equitable distribution would only lead to injustice and inequalities.

37. Her Government had been setting up institutional frameworks to ensure that its national priorities and strategies were in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Ambitious reforms and the launch of a special partnership platform between her Government and the United Nations country team were designed to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with a focus on the impact of innovation in advancing smart development. Indeed, in presenting its first voluntary national review during the July 2018 high-level political forum, Armenia had highlighted the role of partnerships for innovation in support of socially and environmentally impactful projects. As a side event at the high-level political forum, it had organized a high-level panel on the role of innovation and social enterprise, a follow-up to the Impact Investment for Development Summit it had hosted in 2017.

38. As reflected in its national strategies for sustainable development, her Government was determined to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals into all areas of governance. In a peaceful transformation and change of government over the past year, Armenia had launched a comprehensive reform agenda focused on democratic governance. Having prioritized an innovation agenda, her Government was fully committed to creating and developing knowledge-based platforms that leveraged impact. She hoped that the Committee's deliberations would contribute to identifying new platforms and channels for partnerships and innovation in support of the Goals.

39. **Mr. Traore** (Senegal) said that the international community was struggling to fulfil the commitments made under Agenda 2030, the Addis Ababa Plan of Action and the Paris Agreement, given ongoing impediments such as a return to unilateralism, trade wars, environmental threats, the limited financial resources of developing countries and the persistent

technology gaps between developed and developing countries.

40. The success of the Secretary-General's reform to reposition the United Nations development system must be ensured. International efforts must be bolstered to, once again, place the Organization at the heart of global economic governance. There was no hope of achieving sustainable development if the international community did not carefully abide by the relevant international agreements across the economic, social and environmental dimensions. As implementation of the 2030 Agenda hinged on financing, his Government welcomed the Secretary-General's strategy to accelerate progress to that end.

41. There was an urgent need to end the illicit financial flows that undermined African development efforts. Through its Plan Sénégal Emergent, his Government had achieved remarkable progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. It was cooperating with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to considerably reduce the effects of poverty, especially in rural areas, under its Programme d'Urgence de Développement Communautaire (Urgent Community Development Programme), an example of a successful partnership in the fields of energy access, sanitation, and health care and educational infrastructure. A breakthrough was necessary to achieve the mandatory consensus for formulating collective and appropriate responses to the current challenges related to sustainable development.

42. *Mr. Remaoun (Algeria), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

43. **Mr. Stefanile** (Italy) said that his delegation shared the view that the Committee's agenda should continue to be steered by the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and appreciated the emphasis placed on the principle of leaving no one behind during the general debate. Tackling poverty, marginalization and inequalities should be among the Committee's key priorities.

44. The forthcoming reform of the Organization's development system presented both a unique opportunity and a significant challenge. In line with the positive trend in its provision of ODA in recent years, Italy would contribute 2 million euros to the Special Purpose Trust Fund for the reinvigorated resident coordinator system.

45. It attached great importance to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, particularly in regions most affected by climate change. Ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture should remain firmly at the centre of the international community's agenda. Maximum use should be made of the expertise and operative capacities of the relevant United Nations Rome-based agencies.

46. Respect for human rights was a fundamental element of sustainable development. As already mentioned, ending discrimination in all its forms, achieving gender equality, empowering women and girls and favouring the inclusion of the most vulnerable in societies, particularly people with disabilities, must be a common endeavour in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. To that end, the international community must strengthen funding for sustainable development, including by fostering global multi-stakeholder partnerships. For its part, Italy promoted the active involvement of the private sector, as demonstrated by the participation of over 200 Italian companies in the United Nations Global Compact.

47. Italy was ready to contribute to global efforts to combat climate change, which must be an absolute priority for the international community. In its efforts to fulfil the 2030 Agenda, Italy devoted particular attention to the special needs and vulnerabilities of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. It was pleased to support the efforts of 10 priority countries in the development cooperation framework towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Along with six landlocked developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America, Italy had launched and funded projects directly or indirectly related to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. Ahead of the midterm review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), it was also engaged in partnership initiatives aimed at promoting the sustainable development of small island developing States.

48. Economic growth and sustainable development in Africa were other high-priorities for his country and should remain high on the Second Committee agenda as well. Italy supported the realization of a long-term multidimensional partnership with Africa on topics of mutual interest, particularly, education, infrastructure, access to sustainable energy and the role of women and youth. Later in the month, it would be hosting the second Italy-Africa Conference in Rome.

49. **Mr. Park** Chull-Joo (Republic of Korea) said that, while the Secretary-General's report entitled "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals" (E/2018/64) showed advances in some areas, much still

a long way to go. His delegation welcomed efforts to reform the United Nations development system and the implementation plan for the reinvigorated resident coordinator system; it looked forward to open, transparent and inclusive consultations with Member States during the implementation process. The resident coordinator system must improve its overall effectiveness and efficiency; his delegation looked forward to further strengthening shared services to reduce parallel structures and maximize efficiency gains.

50. The funding compact should remain key not only to ensuring flexible funding and collaboration among agencies, but also to increasing the system's overall transparency and accountability. However, it should not discourage further collaboration with new and emerging donors. The international community should be aware of a potential disconnect between the resident coordinator implementation plan and the funding compact, and new funding mechanisms should be coordinated in a holistic manner.

51. An effective follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda would continue to be crucial; assessing the high-level political forum – the primary follow-up and review mechanism – would also be increasingly important. He commended the substantive discussions and vigorous theme-based review that had characterized the July 2018 high-level political forum and looked forward to the further strengthening and refinement of its process.

52. To ensure the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it would be necessary to strengthen partnerships with the private sector and civil society, and accelerate implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Despite growing momentum for investments in sustainable development, the funding gap remained significant. He called for further discussions to find ways to mobilize investments and support for financing the 2030 Agenda with a view to ensuring that no one was left behind.

53. The international community must not lose momentum in implementing the Paris Agreement and removing the barriers to doing so. Finalizing the rulebook for that Agreement required global action based on cooperation and consensus. Despite some encouraging progress at a meeting of climate change subsidiary bodies and an ad hoc working group in Bangkok the previous month, the international community was currently embarking on the most difficult part of the process. His delegation hoped that the signatories to that Agreement would participate actively in the Krakow pre-conference ahead of the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and come up with practicable solutions.

54. The Republic of Korea had scaled up its efforts on the domestic front, and would steadfastly abide by its pledges to meet the 2030 greenhouse gas reduction targets in its nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement. Following the publication of the report entitled *"Global Warming of 1.5°C"* by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change the need for a strengthened global response to the threat of climate change was clearer than ever. At the international level, the Republic of Korea would continue supporting developing countries responding to climate change and hoped that the work of the Green Climate Fund and the Global Green Growth Institute would continue.

55. The international community must strengthen its disaster risk reduction efforts. As recent events had shown, losses and damage caused by natural disasters continued to grow in both size and frequency. The global and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, were fundamental to protecting people's livelihoods and safety.

56. The ongoing repositioning of the United Nations development system should be completely consistent with the effort to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). His delegation noted the recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group after it met in Nairobi and looked forward to further discussing them to help make UN-Habitat better able to tackle its tasks and responsibilities.

57. **Mr. Alsharrah** (Kuwait) said that the positive results achieved in the three short years since adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals should motivate Member States to redouble their collaborative efforts. His country had harmonized its national vision with the 2030 Agenda, under the slogan "a new Kuwait by 2035", and had made sure to involve all sectors of society, including civil society, the private sector and academia. Kuwait planned to present its voluntary national review to the high-level political forum in 2019.

58. As a high-income developing country, Kuwait fulfilled its regional responsibility to assist States suffering from tensions and humanitarian crises. It would continue to establish partnerships through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. Lastly, he expressed his delegation's support for the Secretary-

General's initiative on reform of the United Nations development system.

59. **Mr. Tevi** (Vanuatu) said that while science, technology and innovation had brought remarkable benefits, they had also contributed to inequality and unsustainability. Poverty and non-communicable diseases continued to undermine progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, while natural disasters, exacerbated by climate change, had the capacity to reverse years of economic development. He expressed particular concern about the slow progress being made by small island developing States and the least developed countries.

60. Unequal distribution of growth was impeding poverty reduction and human development. He acknowledged that while his country had made great strides in empowering women and girls, much remained to be done to ensure that more girls had opportunities to acquire tertiary qualifications and more women participated in the highest levels of decision-making. His Government had just launched the Vanuatu National Financial Inclusion Strategy 2018–2023, an initiative aimed at delivering financial services to disadvantaged and low-income groups. His delegation welcomed ongoing efforts to reform the United Nations development system so that it could build on the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement and the programmes of action for countries in special situations, including the Samoa Pathway and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.

61. Vanuatu, which, like many least developed countries, was earmarked to graduate to middle-income status, was concerned to see that countries were making that transition based on the criteria of gross national income and, to a lesser extent, human assets index, while failing to meet the economic vulnerability index threshold. He called for an institutional mechanism for phasing out country-specific benefits beyond graduation so as not to disrupt the development process. Without durable partnerships and international financing, efforts by countries like his to realize the 2030 Agenda would fail.

62. **Mr. Sisilo** (Solomon Islands) said that for graduation to be sustainable and irreversible, least developed countries needed continued access to tailored international support. Solomon Islands would continue its efforts to graduate, but as both a post-conflict country and a small island developing State, it would need time to develop prudent macroeconomic and finance policies. High fuel prices, high indebtedness, small markets and vulnerability to economic shocks and climate change made the possibility of maintaining the threshold indicators upon which graduation was premised extremely remote. He pleaded for an extended transition period to allow his country to develop a practical and smooth transition strategy that would enhance its prospects for achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Istanbul Programme of Action. Support from development partners would enhance its prospects for graduation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

63. **Ms. Supatashvili** (Georgia) said that his Government had been revising its development indicators and would be putting in place an innovative system of electronic monitoring to hold government agencies accountable for progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. His country attached particular importance to Goal 16 on promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies. As a co-chair of the Open Government Partnership, Georgia had hosted the fifth Open Government Partnership summit in Tbilisi in July 2018. Together with the World Federation of United Nations Associations and its partners in the Sixteen Plus Forum, Georgia had also hosted the first annual showcase on Goal 16 on the theme "Just societies: promoting good governance, the rule of law and anti-corruption".

64. The international community was facing a critical challenge in financing for the Sustainable Development Goals. As current president of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development, his country was proud to be hosting the second Tbilisi International Solidarity and Financing Forum scheduled for December 2018. As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, Georgia was expanding the use of renewable resources and promoting energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy. It was committed to the 2030 deadline for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to 40 per cent below the 1990 level. Starting 1 October 2018, his Government had begun to implement a new law restricting the use, import and sale of polyethylene bags.

65. **Mr. Madisa** (Botswana) said that since its last voluntary national review, Botswana had made further progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals despite the many challenges it faced as a middle-income and landlocked developing country. He stressed that national efforts alone would bear no fruit without a supportive global environment that promoted financing, capacity-building and technology transfer. Eliminating poverty and hunger and advancing the priorities of groups of countries in special situations were crucial. In particular, landlocked developing countries had high transport costs and limited markets. He looked forward

to the comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Decade 2014–2024, to be held no later than December 2019 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/232 on follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

66. Botswana remained committed to the Paris Agreement and looked forward to the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Poland in December 2018. It also looked forward to the high-level meeting on middle-income countries to be held during the current session in December 2018 and the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Argentina in March 2019. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Second Committee would approach the many important items on its agenda in a spirit of compromise.

67. **Mr. Perez** (Dominican Republic) said that his country's participatory National Development Strategy had attained 72 per cent alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the Dominican Republic, all segments of the population were involved in public and private initiatives to implement both the Strategy and the 2030 Agenda. Relevant new actors from academia, NGOs and the private sector had come on board; under one agreement in particular, representatives of higher education had pledged to incorporate the Goals in university curricula and conduct joint research on sustainable development. Efforts to establish similar partnerships with local authorities, civil society and the national congress were under way.

68. Recognizing the interrelatedness of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the Dominican Republic had introduced policies in five priority areas to accelerate their achievement: multidimensional poverty reduction; competitiveness and decent work; sustainable consumption and production; resilience to climate change and other risks; and strong and inclusive State institutions. It had drawn up a road map for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 and launched a national strategy to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 1. It had also established a national consultative process on oceans to advance towards Sustainable Development Goal 14 and defined a strategy for mainstreaming gender awareness across all 17 Goals.

69. The economic impact of natural disasters, particularly on housing and population growth, was a major challenge facing the Dominican Republic, which expected urban dwellers to account for 40 per cent of its population by 2030. Currently the tenth most vulnerable country on the planet to hydrometeorological risks, the Dominican Republic was making every effort to build resilience in all sectors and at all levels of society.

70. While the Dominican Republic had experienced robust economic growth – with a gross domestic product exceeding 6.45 per cent in the past four years and a significant decline in the poverty level – fiscal constraint remained a major barrier to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Access to external financing, in particular increased official development assistance, was limited by its status as an upper-middle-income country. Thus, its economic growth had not yet brought about a reduction in inequality, greater access to jobs and quality public services, or sustained development across the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

71. The Dominican Republic was committed to working closely with the reinvigorated resident coordinator system and the new generation of United Nations country teams proposed in General Assembly resolution 72/279 entitled "Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system". It hoped that the repositioning of the development system would enhance support to countries for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, it wished to reiterate its commitment to multilateralism, collaboration and collective action as the means to achieving the goals of the Organization.

72. **Ms. Ahmadi** (Bahrain) said that her country had achieved a number of the Sustainable Development Goals ahead of schedule. It had just presented its first voluntary national review to the high-level political forum in July 2018. Her Government had incorporated a vast majority of the Goals into its 2015–2018 action plan, and would do the same with its 2018–2021 action plan. Bahrain had experienced a high rate of economic growth over the previous decade and had implemented correspondingly high increases in spending on health, education and social protection. The private sector had been a key partner in development, offering high-wage jobs that had helped to reduce unemployment in Bahrain to less than 4 per cent. The Government-sponsored Tamkeen fund had provided billions of dollars to small and medium-sized businesses, and trained over 100,000 individuals, including women and young people.

73. Her Government devoted special attention to housing for persons with limited income and divorced

and single women. In cooperation with the UNDP country office, Bahrain had incorporated the principle of sustainability into its housing policy by promoting eco-friendly building materials and thermal insulation to reduce energy consumption. New units were being equipped with solar energy systems that would eventually become standard.

74. **Ms. Crabtree** (Turkey) said that financing, technology transfer, and South-South cooperation were of key importance for realizing the 2030 Agenda. Her country had increased its ODA to 0.95 per cent of GDP, well above the 0.7 per cent target, much of which went to least developed countries to support implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. Turkey was host to the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, whose June 2018 inauguration had marked the completion of target 8 of Sustainable Development Goal 17. In addition to providing facilities for the Technology Bank's operation, her Government would be contributing $2 million annually through 2021. She called on other Member States to make their voluntary contributions.

75. Turkey was also home to the Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development, one of six UNDP policy centres intended to promote inclusive business models, market-driven skills and impact investing. In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, Turkey had launched a Sustainable Development Goal impact accelerator to support entrepreneurship and innovation in least developed countries. That initiative would be closely coordinated with the Technology Bank and include a focus on displaced persons and refugees.

76. Located at a historical crossroads of migration, Turkey had traditionally embraced people in need without discrimination, most recently by taking in millions of Syrian refugees. As a country of both origin and destination, Turkey was active in the negotiations for a global compact for migration, as had previously been the case in negotiations for the global compact on refugees. She looked forward to adoption of the new compact at the Marrakesh intergovernmental conference in December 2018, and affirmed her country's commitment to follow up by working hand in hand with the International Organization for Migration during the implementation phase.

77. Her delegation welcomed the declaration of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, and commended Tajikistan for the leading role it had played in raising the profile of water-related issues on the international stage. Over the past year, her country had experienced both heavy flooding and its most severe drought in 44 years. As both an upstream and downstream country, Turkey pursued a transboundary water policy aimed at efficient and equitable cooperation among riparian States. Further international cooperation would be necessary as climate change exacerbated water stress around the world.

78. Her delegation supported the United Nations development system reform process launched by the Secretary-General. A repositioned development system would effectively serve countries at different development levels. National ownership and consent should be the guiding principles, with emphasis on countries with special needs.

79. **Ms. Alali** (United Arab Emirates) said that the priority placed by her country on youth and women was exemplified by the fact that its Cabinet boasted the youngest minister in the world; it was also the first country in its region to require female members of the boards of companies and Government agencies. The United Arab Emirates had also established a Gender Balance Council, appointed nine women Cabinet ministers, and contributed some $21 million to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

80. With natural disasters on the rise, instruments such as the Paris Agreement were more important than ever. She welcomed the Secretary-General's recent announcement of the climate summit to take place in September 2019. The United Arab Emirates-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund was a model for how to help economies address climate change. She was proud to note that the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development had ranked the United Arab Emirates as the world's top per capita ODA donor.

81. The fourth industrial revolution offered dramatic new possibilities, but also unanticipated challenges. In October 2018, her capital Dubai would be hosting the United Nations World Data Forum, which focused on harnessing statistics in the service of the 2030 Agenda. As a member of the Secretary-General's recently formed High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, her country would be stressing digital cooperation among Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations and academia. International digital cooperation would also be the theme of Expo 2020 Dubai, which would be the first international exposition to be held in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region. The United Arab Emirates also looked forward to taking part in the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to be held in Marrakesh in December 2018.

82. *Mr. Skinner-Klée Arenales (Guatemala) resumed the Chair.*

83. **Mr. Kapambwe** (Zambia) said that his country had made some progress in achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth. In its efforts to become a prosperous middle-income country, Zambia was implementing its seventh national development plan with a targeted annual GDP growth rate of over 5 per cent until 2021 and the aim of raising annual domestic resource mobilization to about 18 per cent of GDP. The GDP growth rate had grown steadily since the plan was launched in 2017, although at a slightly lower rate than the previous year.

84. His Government had prioritized promoting international trade and investment, creating high-value opportunities while improving the country's competitiveness, and infrastructure development in the transport, information and communications technology and energy sectors with the involvement of the private sector. Improvements had been made in key sectors such as agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and energy.

85. The agriculture sector was the largest source of livelihood for many people in Zambia. While measures had been taken to diversify it with a view to raising the living standards in rural and urban areas, the country faced major challenges such as low agricultural productivity, especially among small-scale farmers, inadequate farm mechanization, poor market connections and low value additions to agricultural output. In response, his Government had introduced climate-smart agricultural practices and would continue developing irrigation infrastructure and investing in disease and pest control to protect crops and livestock.

86. His Government was enhancing electricity generation and promoting major investments in transport infrastructure to achieve better capitalization of broad-based recovery and an improved economic outlook. To accelerate industrialization, it had financed the establishment of multi-facility economic zones, industrial parks and other support infrastructure. Several policy and structural reforms had also been implemented under the Economic Stabilization and Growth Programme, including measures towards improving domestic resource mobilization through modernization and automation of revenue collection processes, enhancing tax incentives and broadening the economy's tax base.

87. Economic growth in Zambia, which was largely dependent on primary commodities, had been negatively affected by the fall in commodity prices, low foreign direct investment inflow, the country's declining share in international trade, and inadequate and costly financing. Declining ODA and other sources of development financing posed a great risk to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Domestic resource mobilization efforts must be complemented by enhanced international public finance and policy. All development partners were urged to commit to and intensify cooperation efforts to curb illicit financial flows in all their forms, including through tax evasion and corruption, which were draining Africa's resources. His delegation called for effective development cooperation and stronger support for South-South cooperation, which should complement, rather than replace, North-South cooperation.

88. Zambia was continuing to pursue its initiatives with regard to early warning systems, climate change adaptation and mitigation and resource mobilization. To enhance early warning systems and increase capacity to interpret climate change information, his Government was making every effort to improve access to weather-related information, especially for farmers seeking to adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices. It was also strengthening the nation's capacity for synthesizing, analysing and transmitting climate risk assessments and promoting climate information services. The Second Committee should continue to urge Member States to honour their commitments under the Paris Agreement. That would not only protect people's livelihoods from adverse environmental impacts, but also reduce incidences of weather patterns resulting in droughts, floods and extreme temperatures.

89. In conclusion, he commended the Secretary-General on the progress made in reforming the United Nations development system and preparing the implementation plan to enhance the work of country teams and resident coordinators.

90. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that the contentious global environment hampered the full achievement of the objectives of international agreements, which would have adverse implications for all and, particularly, for the growth and prosperity of developing countries. During the current session, the Committee should focus on ways of strengthening multilateral cooperative arrangements, promoting international cooperation to achieve shared objectives and addressing impediments to the implementation of key international agreements, as well as emerging development challenges.

91. Her Government's key priorities corresponded to such 2030 Agenda objectives as revitalizing the economy; expanding the agricultural sector; transitioning towards sustainable and affordable energy while focusing on efficiency; conservation and sustainable use of water resources; a green agenda,

including a 10 billion tree plantation campaign; reform of the governance structure and enhanced accountability; expansion of the social safety net; transformation of the health and education sectors; and women's empowerment and development. While domestic resource mobilization and greater self-reliance were important, a favourable international environment, greater access to financial resources and technological support remained critical.

92. As the international community moved forward with reforming the United Nations development system, the focus should remain on development; respecting national ownership, leadership and sovereignty; ensuring that a reformed resident coordinator system was fully in keeping with the relevant General Assembly resolution and the mandate agreed with the host Government; and the host Government's role in finalizing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the composition of United Nations country teams. All of that hinged on sufficient financial resources to cover administrative costs, especially for the resident coordinator.

93. Illicit financial flows caused by tax evasion, corruption and transnational organized crime had serious implications for economic, social and political stability and development, particularly in developing countries. Her Government prioritized accountability and recovery of stolen assets, which must be fully enforced. Enhancing international cooperation, for which the United Nations Convention against Corruption provided the required framework, was crucial to combating illicit financial flows. The return of stolen assets pursuant to Chapter V of the Convention should be fully enforced.

94. The availability and efficient management of water resources underpinned poverty eradication, economic growth, food and energy security and environmental sustainability. As a lower riparian State, Pakistan was highly vulnerable to water-related disasters and likely to be water-scarce by 2025. It had recently adopted a national water policy offering a comprehensive approach to water issues, which entailed increasing water storage capacity through a number of large-scale projects. The Diamer Bhasha Dam project would not only serve as a major source of clean energy, drinking water and irrigation, but also significantly enhance the country's water management capabilities and safeguard against flooding. International cooperation should be scaled up to support water-related national priorities and protect the interests of lower riparian States through strong and effective regional mechanisms.

95. Climate change had emerged as the single most critical challenge of the day. It was also a threat multiplier, aggravating existing political, social and economic challenges. Pakistan remained acutely vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change: it was threatened by drought, desertification, glacial melt, rising sea levels and recurrent flooding. Addressing climate change was a collective endeavour that required a global response. She called for an early conclusion of the modalities of the Paris Agreement, and renewed political will to achieve its objectives, including fulfilment of the pledge to mobilize US$100 billion annually by 2020.

96. Pakistan had always attached great importance to South-South collaboration and worked closely with many developing countries. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was a shining example of win-win cooperation. It was enormous in scale and scope and promised vast economic and developmental benefits to the entire region and beyond.

97. Colonial and foreign occupation greatly hampered economic and social development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. As the international community envisioned an inclusive world, it must also ensure that people under colonial rule and occupation were not left behind either.

98. **Ms. Jemuovic** (Serbia) said that her Government had established an Inter-Ministerial Working Group to monitor and implement all the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. By late 2017, the Group had convened meetings that included representatives of the private and civil sectors to begin adjusting the Sustainable Development Goals and targets to the chapters of the European Union accession negotiations and to United Nations methodology. In partnership with the local United Nations country team, it was developing a process for funding the 2030 Agenda. A national sustainable development fund would be established and function under the Group's auspices. In addition, the German Agency for International Cooperation and the Serbian Ministry of Finance had launched a public finance reform project to increase the visibility of the Sustainable Development Goals.

99. A newly-established focus group in the Serbian National Assembly was particularly important for facilitating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and addressing financing issues, and the Statistical Office had organized workshops to map out Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Her Government was grateful to the United Nations country team and the United Nations Istanbul Regional Hub for providing support during the September 2018 mainstreaming,

acceleration and policy strategy (MAPS) mission in Serbia. That same month, the United Nations had also provided support for a subregional conference, hosted by Serbia, to promote implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Western Balkans. Serbia would present its voluntary national review during the July 2019 high-level political forum.

100. Serbia recognized the significance of climate change and the need for mitigation and adaptation measures. To improve its own legislative framework, her Government was preparing a draft law on climate change. A long-term national strategy for adjusting to climate change that it was drafting in cooperation with the European Union would be completed by the end of the year.

101. Since the opening of the Western Balkans migrant route, Serbia had done its utmost to help Middle Eastern and African migrants transiting through its territory to Western and Northern European countries. Of the 900,000 refugees and migrants who had transited Serbia since 2015, approximately 3,000 remained in the country. Most of them were accommodated in asylum and reception centres and accorded various types of assistance, including health care and children's education. Her country had regularly demonstrated its solidarity and humanity, for which it frequently received praise from migrants, United Nations agencies and the international community. As a country that had dealt with the issue of protracted displacement for over 20 years, Serbia called for a comprehensive solution to the refugee and migrant crisis.

102. Her delegation welcomed the ongoing reform of the United Nations development system and fully agreed that joint and coordinated responses to capacity development were more necessary than ever, including a critical review of the system's internal capacities to support countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

103. **Mr. Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that, in the light of the catastrophe and magnitude of the migration crisis, it was important to act quickly, keeping in mind that the best solution was to promote development and stability around the world.

104. Every Member State was responsible for helping to curb the impact of climate change. Member States must accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement, pooling their resources to address global warming and climate disruption. His Government was determined to fulfil its commitments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change at the national level and expected its partners to do likewise; in particular, it hoped they would contribute to the Green Climate Fund to assist the least developed countries.

105. In fulfilling the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations must continue to ensure multilateral coordination to ensure genuine and effective international solidarity, and promote greater interaction with development partners, including international financial and economic institutions, with a view to mobilizing necessary financial resources. Without significant funding, the Sustainable Development Goals were destined to fail.

106. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was experiencing a period of economic stability, as evidenced by the encouraging results obtained in various sectors. To address its development challenges, his country was determined to implement its people-centred National Strategic Development Plan, which genuinely took into account the three dimensions of sustainable development. In order to maintain current economic growth levels, boost its chances of success and foster conditions conducive to establishing a prosperous and modern nation, his Government had pledged to respect human rights and strengthen security, democracy and justice, which would help it fortify its institutions. In addition, it was committed to improving governance and transparency, particularly in the forestry, mining and oil sectors.

107. In that same vein, his Government had implemented a policy of improving business conditions and creating a climate propitious to mobilizing substantial financial resources to develop the private sector and bolster its competitiveness. It was also working to increase productivity and develop a high-performing agricultural sector that would make it possible to achieve food self-sufficiency.

108. Moreover, his Government was striving to implement large-scale public works projects to build roads, highways and hydroelectric dams; provide access to energy, water and sanitation; and modernize public services. It was currently developing a policy aimed at youth employment and the intensive industrialization of the economy with a view to considerably expanding value chains in all sectors of economic activity, particularly those related to natural resources. In addition, his country was bolstering tourism promotion. Although tourism infrastructure was still quite limited, the Democratic Republic of the Congo was making every effort to develop it.

109. His Government remained firmly committed to the Paris Agreement. It was aware of its responsibility to preserve and restore ecosystems, given that it contained the second largest forest system in the world. The Democratic Republic of the Congo had invested

significantly in the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD); it had designated 13.41 per cent of its national territory as protected areas.

110. His Government had introduced major reforms designed to reap a demographic dividend, including strategic investments in health and population control, with a view to strengthening human capital and promoting the employability of youth.

111. The 2030 Agenda had given fresh impetus to the international community's efforts to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and just world while emphasizing the inextricable link between peace, security and development, which were mutually reinforcing. The international community's credibility relied, more than ever, on its capacity to fulfil that Agenda and its best means of doing so was unity within the framework of the United Nations.

112. **Ms. Al-Mamari** (Oman) said that achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would require capacity-building, technology transfer and innovative approaches. Her country would be presenting its voluntary national review to the high-level political forum in 2019. Oman paid special attention to the environment and made sure that its legislation was in line with global standards. With international trade playing a greater role in development than ever, she urged the World Trade Organization to promote a multilateral system capable of addressing any trade-related problems that might arise.

113. **Mr. Rai** (Papua New Guinea) said that his delegation had noted with interest the statement made by the representative of the Brookings Institution. His Government had put in place and implemented strategic and sectoral policies that directly addressed the country's economic, social and environmental objectives, and integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into its Third Medium-Term Development Plan. Over the past three years, Papua New Guinea had made measured strides in the areas of economic empowerment, education, health care and gender equality, all of which required further work.

114. His country's localization of the Sustainable Development Goals was underpinned by its Melanesian traditions and cultures, which epitomized the principle of leaving no one behind. While national leadership, ownership and space were necessary for fulfilling the Goals, experience had shown that development outcomes were best when all partners, including the Government, the private sector, civil society, academia, media, faith-based organizations, local communities and the international community, collaborated closely to improve the well-being of a nation and its people.

115. To enhance key development partnerships, his Government had revised its Development Cooperation Policy to account for growing partnerships with non-traditional sources, including the private sector. It was working with the private sector to identify ways to unlock its share of an expected US$12 trillion for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. In November 2018, his country would host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, which represented 39 per cent of the global population and three of the world's biggest economies. The summit would provide an opportunity to foster partnerships and dialogue in key development areas and advance policy formulation.

116. His Government also recognized the critical importance of a reliable evidence base to support the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. It had launched a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics and was revising its National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, which would be supported by a revamped National Statistics Office. Papua New Guinea was grateful for the support it had received from bilateral and multilateral development partners.

117. Like many small island developing States, his country's vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters remained a serious challenge to fulfilling its aspirations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The adverse impacts of rising sea levels and climate change and natural hazards had been increasing in frequency, intensity and scale, challenging the ability of communities to cope using their traditional risk reduction knowledge. The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impact of climate change at 1.5°C gave cause for concern.

118. The costs of climate-related disasters could be crippling to a country. The largest earthquake in the history of Papua New Guinea had taken place earlier that year, killing several hundred people and displacing over half a million. His Government and its development partners had invested more than US$120 million in addressing the El Niño-induced drought, which had affected approximately 40 per cent of the population.

119. His Government had been proactive in addressing the impacts of those disasters through policies and measures to mainstream adaptation and mitigation into its national planning. However, the challenges were substantial and continued to grow, and current resources did not allow for a sustainable response. For many small

island developing States, concerted and accelerated action, including under the Paris Agreement, was critical to fulfilling the commitment to combat climate change. Developed countries should not only provide the means of implementation in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, but also strengthen mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund through concrete action.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.